



JOSEPH R. BIDEN, III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
820 NORTH FRENCH STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

CONTACT JASON MILLER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
PHONE (302) 577-8949
CELL (302) 893-8939
Jason.Miller@state.de.us

Media Release

April 20, 2009

Delaware Department of Justice announces \$31 million tobacco payment

Wilmington, DE – Today, the Delaware Department of Justice announced that Delaware has received its annual payment from the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) between the states and the tobacco industry. Payments totaling \$31,027,740 were received on April 15 and April 17 and have been deposited into the Delaware Health Fund.

“I am pleased that Delaware continues to receive significant payments from the Master Settlement Agreement,” stated Chief Deputy Attorney General Richard Gebelein. “Now more than ever these funds support critical public health programs across our state. We’ll continue to enforce all provisions of the Agreement to reduce tobacco use, particularly among children.”

Under the MSA, participating tobacco manufacturers make substantial payments to states that have reached settlements with the industry. The MSA created new restrictions on the advertising, promotion and marketing of cigarettes, including outright bans on targeting youth and distribution of merchandise advertising a cigarette brand. It also funds anti-tobacco education. Studies show that the vast majority of current adult smokers began smoking before the age of 18, and since the MSA took effect, youth smoking rates have dropped nationwide.

The Delaware Department of Justice administers the state’s participation in the MSA.

The 1999 Delaware Health Act established the Delaware Health Fund, which receives payments received by the state under the MSA, created the Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee to make recommendations for appropriating monies received by the Delaware Health Fund, and directed how money paid into the fund should be spent. Learn more about how Delaware appropriates its MSA payments by visiting <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/healthfund/about.html>.

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